

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6060

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD KOREA VISIT  
ANNOUNCEMENT

### SUMMARY

MORNING PAPERS FRONTPAGED ANNOUNCEMENT PRESIDENT FORD PLANS VISIT KOREA NOVEMBER 22, COMMENTING VISIT SIGNIFIES FORD ADMINISTRATION GIVING PRIORITY TO ASIAN AFFAIRS AND SPECULATING THAT U.S. TROOP LEVELS, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID, ROKG-GOJ RELATIONS, UNGA STRATEGY WILL BE DISCUSSED AT US-ROK "SUMMIT". END SUMMARY

1. BOTH MASS-CIRCULATION MORNING PAPERS IN FRONT PAGE LEAD STRIES OBSERVED THAT ASIAN TRIP EARLY IN FORD ADMINISTRATION INDICATES GROWING IMPORTANCE OF ASIA TO USG. HANKUK ILBO: "PRESIDENT FORD IS COMING LESS THAN 100 DAYS AFTER HIS INAUGURATION...UNLIKE NIXON WHO WENT FIRST TO EUROPE, FORD CHOSE THE FAR EAST....HE IS LIKELY TO INVITE PRESIDENT PARK TO VISIT THE U.S. DURING THEIR TALKS..." CHOSUN ILBO: "DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS THINK THE THRUST OF FORD'S POLICY IN KOREA AND ASIA IS IN BALANCING RELATIONS AMONG THE U.S., JAPAN, RUSSIA AND CHINA AND BELIEVE THAT HIDDEN BEHIND GOJ FM KIMURA'S RECENT INFURIATING REMARKS IS GOJ INTENT TO ATTUNE ITS POLICY TO THIS LINE...THAT FORD IS COMING TO ASIA RATHER THAN EUROPE ON HIS FIRST OVERSEAS TRIP IS EVIDENCE  
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OF THIS..."

2. PAPERS QUOTED "INFORMED" AND "DIPLOMATIC" SOURCES IN SPECULATING ON SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT FORD-PARK MEETING. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE KOREA TIMES: "INFORMED SOURCES SAID THE TWO LEADERS AT A "SUMMIT MEETING" WOULD "FOCUS ON KOREA'S SECURITY AND RELATED U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE" AND ALSO DISCUSS "CONTINUED U.S. ECONOMIC AID...WAYS OF MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY IN ASIA WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE HOSTILE NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS, AND A JOINT STRATEGY TOWARD THE CURRENT UNGA SESSION....THE SOURCES POINTED OUT THAT THE MOST SIGNIFICANT WILL BE THEIR MUTUAL PLEDGE TO CONTINUE AND PROMOTE FRIENDSHIP...(A PLEDGE) COMING SINCE PRESIDENT FORD ASSUMED THE PRESIDENCY."

3. HANKUK ILBO: PRESIDENT FORD "IS EXPECTED TO DISCUSS AMERICAN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID AND RECENT GOJ-ROK RELATIONS..." CHOSUN ILBO:"CONSIDERING THAT SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION, ASSURING PEACE IN THE PENINSULA, IS A PREREQUISITE TO THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S REGIONAL DETENTE POLICY, THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP DOES NOT SEEM RELATED TO DISCUSSION OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL...THE VISIT MAY END ESTRANGED RELATIONS BETWEEN ROK AND U.S. LEADERS THAT BEGAN IN THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION...WE NOTE THAT PRESIDENT FORD DECIDED TO VISIT SEOUL IN DEFIANCE OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION."  
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